DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 366 491 RC 019 493

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TITLE Leadership and Administration of Outdoor Pursuits. Second Edition.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-910251-60-6
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 442p.
AVAILABLE FROM Venture Publishing, Inc., 1999 Cato Ave., State College, PA 16801 ($33.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Camping; *Conservation (Environment); *Group Dynamics; Leadership; Leadership Styles; Leadership Training; Outdoor Activities; Outdoor Education; *Planning; *Program Administration; *Safety
IDENTIFIERS *Outdoor Leadership; *Outdoor Recreation

ABSTRACT

Outdoor leadership aims to assist outdoor participants in making logical and safe transitions from the routine of everyday life to a positive interaction with the natural world. Designed for outdoor leaders and administrators of recreational, educational, and adventure programs, this book provides an overview of current professional practices in outdoor leadership. Part 1 presents background on the diversity of outdoor pursuits and participants, types of sponsoring agencies, values of outdoor recreation, recreational land classification, classification of adventure activities by difficulty, use of federal lands, concepts and interpretation to help participants understand and feel at home in the outdoor environment, and ecological and sociological impact on the environment by outdoor activities. Part 2 outlines: skills and knowledge specific to the outdoor leader, including physiological and psychological human needs; survival skills, planning for possible emergencies, and teaching for survival; first aid; search and rescue resources; public and press relations in emergencies; and navigation training and teaching map and compass skills. Part 3 discusses aspects of leadership and administration, including leadership competencies, styles, and training; basic administrative planning; liability, risk management, and insurance; program promotion and marketing; and transportation issues and policies. Part 4 covers planning and field leadership, including the processes of strategic and tactical planning, group dynamics, decision making, teaching in the outdoors, and leadership of 12 outdoor activities. Each chapter contains references. This book includes an index and many figures that illustrate outdoor techniques or summarize planning criteria. (SV)

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